

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
AUGUST 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 12 DECEMBER 1996**

1. **SITE NAME:** McCook Precision Bombing Range No. 2

SITE NUMBER: B07NE006200

LOCATION:

City: Dickens
County: Lincoln County
State: Nebraska

PROJECT NUMBER: B07NE006201

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 4

2. **POC's:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** McCook Precision Bombing Range No. 2 was located about 19 miles south of North Platte and ten miles northeast of the town of Dickens, in Lincoln County, Nebraska. Encompassing approximately 2,560 acres of rolling terrain and high grass, it was used as a bombing range by the Second Air Force in conjunction

with McCook AAF. The site is currently being used as range land and for farming. At the time of acquisition, the site was used for cattle ranching, hayland and farming. Currently, four landowners hold title to the site.

Terrain is irregular. The land is fairly flat, with variance of less than 20 feet. The land is used for agricultural and grazing. There are some rural residences. The site is accessible using county section and private roads. The target is now a corn field and was located at the intersection of four sections--9,10,15 and 16 T 11 N, R 31 W.

4. SITE HISTORY: The U. S. Army acquired 2,560 acres of lease land from four owners for use as McCook Precision Bombing Range No. 2 in 1943. McCook AAF, in Red Willow County, Nebraska, about 12 miles northwest of the City of McCook, used it for a Radar Pin Point Bombing Range and for precision practice bombing training. The Army used M38-series 100 pound practice bombs with a M3 or M4 spotting charge during training. Facilities at the range consisted of a school house, windmills, and fencing.

Heavy bombardment aircraft crews frequently flew over this range to practice their combat skills. Practice bombs with black powder charges were dropped on the target. Historical research has not indicated the use of any other types of munitions. Archival research and interviews revealed no evidence of CWM activity or contamination on the subject site. Although McCook AAF proper maintained Gas Identification and Detonating Sets for training, there is no evidence that the sets were used on, or in anyway applied to, the bombing and gunnery ranges.

The War Department declared the range surplus on 15 January 1947. Three leases were terminated on 31 March 1947 and the remaining lease was terminated on 1 April 1947. The Headquarters, Bomb and Shell Disposal Team issued a decontamination statement dated 10 February 1947, stating that the area had been cleared of scrap metal, was free of dud bombs and explosives and was declared safe for all purposes.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA A:

Size, Acres:	2,560 Acres
Former Use:	Radar Pin Point Bombing Range/ precision practice bombing training
Present Use:	Range land and farming
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Practice bomb(srap metal): 100 lb.

6. CURRENT STATUS: The draft Archives Search Report for McCook Precision Bombing Range No. 2 was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in August 1995.

7. STRATEGY:

Area A: EE/CA(See Issues and Concerns below)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: Recommend a very low-priority RAC 4 EE/CA due to the potential of spotting charges and based on ASR Site Survey Findings and historical documents described below. Recommend any further investigation concentrate on bomb target area where bomb debris was found.

ASR Comments: "Based on the results of the Site Survey conducted on Tuesday, 23 May 1995, there is no evidence of conventional OEW contamination. The only ordnance and explosive metal debris encountered was from the M38-series 100 pound practice bombs. Only a small number of dilapidated bomb pieces, none potentially hazardous to the public, remain on the surface."

Range clearance and Inspection Comments:

(1) 14 June 1946 Inspection--"Although some scrap from M38 practice bomb casings remained on the surface, and a number of bomb craters and holes containing M38 practice bomb casings were found the policing of the areas was done exceptionally well. The bomb craters and holes were concentrated within the target."

(2) Report of Decontamination, 10 February 1947-- "Nothing was found" and "I hereby certify that the ranges mentioned above are free of all duds and explosives and are declared safe for all purposes."

(3) Report of Excess Real Estate, 27 September 1946-- "A brief statement of the present condition of the property--Reported to be in good condition. Range was cleaned and policed in accordance with Section I, War Department Circular 195, 1945, on or about 15 December 1945."

Interview: One of the ASR Team members recorded an interview in which he was able to have someone verify that practice bombs and flour sacks were the only bombs used.

Natural Resources: There are known Federally-listed species occurring in the site area. A listing is provided on page 3-4, para 3.5 of the ASR Findings. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Climate: Temperatures in the summer and winter can be extreme with a high of 112 degrees and a low of -34 degrees on record for July of 1954 and December of 1989, respectively.

Historical Resources: No cultural or historical sites associated with this site are reported in the ASR. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only